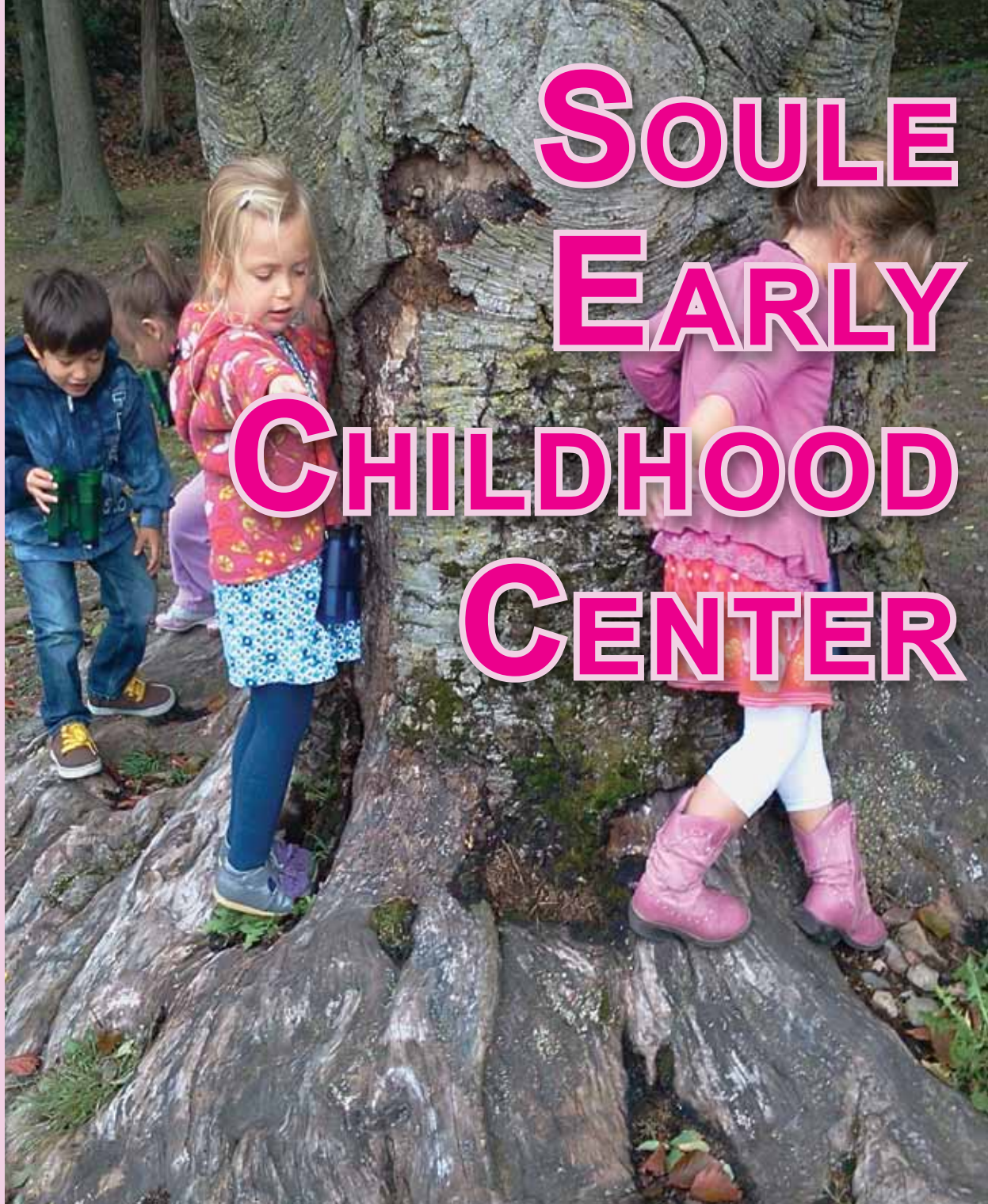


Wonder, Question & Learn

 **BROOKLINE**
•RECREATION•



**SOULE
EARLY
CHILDHOOD
CENTER**



www.brooklinerec.com

617.739.7598

652 Hammond St, Brookline MA 02467



PROGRAMS:

The Early Childhood Program is an innovative mix of inspired Reggio Emilia and Montessori educational philosophies. We believe that childhood is a joyful time and that children need time to explore the world, practice skills, and learn to navigate and develop social interactions.

We offer a variety of experiences for children that help to develop the individual and the community. We support learning and physical activity by scaffolding learning through observation, thoughtful curriculum development, and selection of educational materials.

Our historic carriage house building is surrounded by natural beauty, nestled in the center of the Soule Park. Children can explore nature; play on our two state of the art play areas and our child friendly splash pad. Soule maintains a childcare license through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

To schedule a tour:
please call: 617.739.7598 or email: gtzizik@brooklinema.gov

Programs are offered year round:
The center’s hours of operation are: 8:00A-6:00P
Full and part-time toddler and preschool classes

Enrichment and Field Trips:

Soule Early Childhood offers several enrichment activities throughout each year. Activities vary by season, age and availability. Activities and Field Trips include: Environmental education, swimming, skating, yoga, music and movement, cooking, art and art history, field trips to local areas of interest such as the Museum of Fine Arts, apple picking, ice skating, the Children’s Museum and much more!

Families at Soule:

Families are an integral part of the work we do at Soule. There are several formal events throughout the year that families can participate in and numerous opportunities for volunteering in the classroom and with the Soule Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Holidays and Celebrations:

We encourage families to share special events and holidays with the classrooms and the community.

Snack and Lunch:

Families are required to sign up to bring morning snack one time monthly for each child enrolled. We provide a list of recommended foods to choose from. The preparation of the snack is done by the child with the teacher and is one of the many ways we encourage sharing with our school community. Families send lunch each day for their child and afternoon snack is provided by the center.



Communication and Documentation:

Each classroom sends a “Daily Page” via email to all families in their classroom. The daily page is a highlight and pictures of some of the day’s activities. The center and classrooms have documentation boards throughout the school that highlight curriculum and events; this is done with pictures and written presentations.

Art at Soule:

Art and aesthetic beauty are considered essential elements of the school and classroom. We have chosen our materials, furniture, paint colors and display areas carefully with the objective of creating an inviting and home like environment for children and adults to be part of. Each classroom has a mini art studio for creative exploration such as collage, clay, painting and printing. Our art specialist comes into the classroom several times a week and is here to assist teachers in their artistic approach in the classroom.

Classrooms:

Each classroom has its own unique feel and design that reflect our belief that children need open space, quality lighting and materials that promote learning and a connection to nature and their community. The defined areas may change and are often modified throughout the year by the teachers. The aesthetics of the classroom and school environment are essential to the development and interpretation of the ideas that are presented and experienced by children and adults. Through beauty we develop a complex thinking, appreciation and care of our environment and build our relationships and cultural context.

There are 2 to 3 teachers in each classroom throughout the day to work in small groups and individually with children. Our classrooms are multi age and we strive to provide a balance of age, gender and program choice in each room. The toddler classroom ranges in age from 12 months to 2.8 years old and our pre-school classrooms range in age from 2.9 years to 5.0 years old. Children will typically be in the same pre-school classroom for the time they are at Soule.

Enrollment at Soule:

Each winter current families and siblings have priority to re-enroll in the program. Community enrollment is filled from the waitlist in February and as they occur throughout the year. Soule maintains an on-line waitlist that is free of change. Enrollment decisions are based on the needs of the classrooms.

FACILITIES:

The Soule Early Childhood Center consists of four classrooms: one toddler classroom that consists of five areas: play area, a bathroom area, a changing area, eating area and sleeping area: three preschool classrooms all consisting of a play area, eating area and discovery area. The Center is equipped with child-sized toilets and child height sinks. On the Childhood campus there is a natural turf field, synthetic turf field, a gymnasium, a splash-pad, age appropriate play structures and the Environmental Education Center. In addition to the on-site amenities, the children also visit the off-site Recreation facilities including, the Evelyn Kirrane Aquatics Center, the Jack Kirrane Skating Rink at Larz Anderson Park, and the Robert T. Lynch Municipal Golf Course via a school bus or a recreation passenger van.



SITE HISTORY

Soule Recreation Center, named for Augustus Soule, a Brookline Park Commissioner, is located in the carriage house of the estate of John G. Wright. This building, a fine example of the Medieval Revival style, was designed by the architectural firm of Chapman & Frazer in 1896 for Mr. Wright. Wright, a Boston wool merchant had bought the property from Thomas Quimby, a farmer. The main house, which faced Woodland Road, was a large medieval castle. Andrew Adie, a subsequent owner, was the president of the Scotia Worsted Mills with an office at 60 Federal Street. The original design of the estate was by Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot and contained a formal rose garden with a turnstile, a cow paddock, a hen house and vegetable gardens as well as a potting shed.



In 1942, the carriage house and main building were bought by the Rivers School (now located in Weston) and converted into classrooms and administrative offices. The Rivers School had previously been located at what is now the Eliot Recreation Center. The school built the gymnasium in 1944.

In 1961, the Town bought the property for recreational purposes. The main house burned down in 1963. The carriage house continues to be used by the Recreation Department today. The field near the site of the house was named after Robson. In 1998, the exterior site was renovated with Urban Self-Help funds from the State. It is located in the Chestnut Hill National Register District.

STAFF

Our teaching staff at Soule are certified by the Department of Early Education and Care and most hold a degree in education. We work with several colleges and universities locally and internationally to place teaching interns throughout the year.

We value the experience that our teachers bring into the classroom and are committed to continuing their professional development throughout the year. Staff training is on a monthly basis as a group with professional trainers that work with us to set our professional goals each year. The Soule PTO supports our training efforts for teachers to participate in professional organizations, trainings and certificate programs in Reggio Emilia Italy and the United States.

Soule Early Childhood is a division of Brookline Recreation.



INDOOR PLAY

This seasonal drop in program is designed for families with toddler children and young pre-school children that are crawling and walking. The program is located in the Soule gym that is next to the Soule Early Childhood Center. It is open seasonally October-April from 9:30A to 12:00 noon. Our spacious gym provides a warm and exciting environment for your child to play with other children and for families to meet.

The program provides mats, age appropriate play equipment such as slides, trikes, balls and much more. There are optional organized activities during each session that can include art exploration, yoga and music.